

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Published Since 1877

## First person...

## A mother's story is testimony of God's faithfulness

By Winnie Carlisle

I was born in Sylvaena, Smith County, on Jan. 23, 1916. My education was limited. I attended and graduated from Sylvaena Vocational High School with special honors (demerits).

My choice vocation was to be a nurse. Because we had a neighbor who was a nurse and became addicted to drugs — as well as becoming a nuisance to the neighborhood — my father refused to let me go to nursing school. He insisted I take a business course. This I did, reluctantly.

I enrolled in Hattiesburg Business College. About one month before I completed the business course, my mother died. Since I had five younger brothers and sisters, it was necessary for me to return home to help Dad care for the family — no more school.

On Nov. 14, 1940, I was married to John Calvert Carlisle of Sylvaena. John and I had four sons: Joe, James, Ben, and Bill. There are now 11 granddaughters, one grandson, and four great-grandchildren.

My parents taught us Christian morals and the values of one's character; this heritage my husband and I tried as best we could to instill in our sons.

The winter of 1954 I contracted a bad flu which developed into pneumonia, leaving scars on my right lung. I was advised to go to the Mississippi Sanatorium for further treatment. In January 1955, we moved from Sylvaena to Bay Springs and in February 1955, I entered the sanatorium. It was not easy leaving four small children

and my husband.

My stay lasted 16 and a half months. I took 23 pills daily plus two shots of penicillin weekly. My condition improved and I gained 71 pounds. I weighed 85 pounds when I was admitted. At the time of my discharge in June 1956, I weighed 156 pounds, and was better looking, too — no beauty queen, but I felt like one.

Many rich blessings came from this experience. God was so good to us and still is today.

Soon after returning home from the "san," my father died, and one week later his only sister — who had no children — was hospitalized for two weeks. I was at her bedside the entire time, getting little rest. After leaving the hospital, she needed special care and lived with us. John and the boys were faithful to help me care for her for 10 years.

In 1961 I had to have lung surgery. Later John suffered from a severe rheumatoid arthritis attack. He became immobile for several years. He went home to be with the Lord on May 5, 1982.

Throughout my married life I have taught Sunday School — nursery children, juniors, intermediate, and adults. I taught the senior adult Sunday School class from 1984-94. I was WMU director for 12 years, Training Union director for three years, secretary and treasurer for Jasper County Associational WMU for the past six years, and church clerk for 21 years. I was president of the Bay Springs senior citizens coffee club for three years. I became a mem-

ber of Arlington Heights Church, Pascagoula, on July 3, 1994.

From May 20, 1982, until Aug. 5, 1994, I lived alone. At different times I nursed several elderly shut-ins in their homes. God

opened doors that caused my desire to be a nurse to be fulfilled — in his own way and time. He was there all the time fulfilling his plan for my life.

Carlisle now lives with her

son Ben, pastor of Arlington Heights Church, Pascagoula. This article originally appeared in the monthly newsletter of the 39ers, the church's senior adult group.

## Happy Mother's Day — May 14

### Chosen

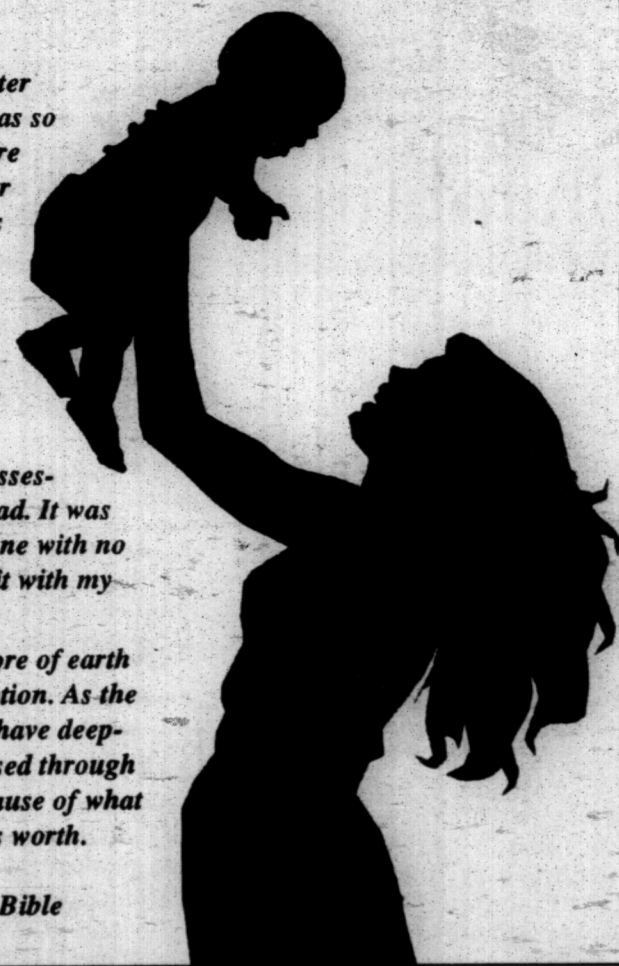
*It was the day before Mother's Day, and our daughter Linda wanted to go shopping even though she was so little that her head was hardly visible over the store counter. Asking me to stay at the front, she headed for the back of Woolworth's, clutching her dollar bill. As I watched, she chose a relish dish and stood by the cash register, where she was overlooked by the busy clerks. She waited, dish in hand, jostled by other customers to buy a gift of her own choosing for her own mother. She finally returned to me with her package and a smile of triumph.*

*That inexpensive dish is one of my most prized possessions, for it cost someone I love all that she had. It was bought with real sacrifice by one who went alone with no other aim than to please me. I cherish it, I display it with my crystal and china, and use it proudly.*

*God's beloved Son, Jesus, came to the dime store of earth and chose to sacrifice his all for our redemption. As the Father watched, his love for his Son must have deepened. And how does God feel about those he purchased through death on the cross? Does God love us even more because of what his Son did for us? After all, that's what gives us worth.*

— Kathryn Hillen

from the (NIV) Women's Devotional Bible



### Shrinking statistic

The frequently-quoted statistic that 20% of church members give 80% of the budget should be downsized for the '90's, according to a Texas stewardship expert. "I have found that in a majority of churches, more like 12% give 80% of the money, and 50% of the members give nothing," said Bob Eklund, director of stewardship for the Baptist General Convention of Texas and co-author of **Partners with God: Bible Truths About Giving**. Eklund also estimates that 80 cents of every dollar given is coming from people over age 55. "God is greatly concerned with our attitudes toward, and performance with, the money he allows to come into our possession," he pointed out. Eklund, who also wrote a book of spiritual awakening while serving the Texas convention as an evangelism associate, believes sacrificial giving has historically resulted in spiritual awakening. "The great need in Southern Baptist life today is revival," he said. If strong biblical principles are taught in churches, Eklund suggests, people will develop a willingness to tithe.

### Christian Writing 101

When Carolyn Tomlin signed up seven years ago for the Writers Workshop at the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) in Nashville, she was an unpublished — but aspiring — writer. Since then, she has authored more than 1,200 articles in 155 publications. "Attending the workshop changed my life," said Tomlin, a kindergarten teacher and pastor's wife from Jackson, Tenn. John Bayer, a Southern Baptist missionary, attended the workshop while on furlough in 1993. "I had no concept of exactly what I was getting into; I just knew I liked to write," he said. Earlier this year, he signed a three-book contract with a major Christian publishing company. "The guidelines and tips I received from the BSSB editors are invaluable," he pointed out. The annual workshop, designed to sharpen basic writing skills and provide information on writing opportunities, is scheduled this year for July 17-20 at the BSSB's Church Program Training Center in Nashville. Registration information can be obtained by calling the Church Program Training Center at (615) 251-2294.

### Looking Back...

#### 10 years ago

The last Baptist layman to serve as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, pleads with churches not to participate in a threatened campaign to withhold funds from the Cooperative Program.

#### 20 years ago

First Church, McComb, dedicates its new \$700,000 sanctuary and Moller organ, the final phase of a relocation project that began nearly 10 years ago when the 89-year-old church body voted to move from its site on Delaware Street.

#### 50 years ago

Jimmy Street, pastor of First Church, Hazlehurst, is selected as Baptist Brotherhood director for the state of Mississippi. D.A. McCall, MBCB executive secretary, calls him "one of the most popular men among Mississippi Baptists."



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

## When your world crashes

Have you ever been hurt? I mean really hurt in a gasping, unbelievable way. It may come from words that lash like a whip, exploding depth charges which shake to the bone, or harsh and ugly actions that snatch sleep from your eyes and leave you staring at the ceiling.

James Dobson writes of a fourth-grade girl who received a note from another student: "Dear Janet, you are the stinkiest girl I know. I wish to God you would die. Nobody likes you. You are a big, fat, ugly girl and nobody wants you around. Since I don't think you will die, let me make some suggestions. Play in the street, drink poison, cut your throat with a knife. I hope to God that you will die soon so we can all breathe fresh air."

How would you like to get a note like that? For a young child craving acceptance from her friends, this would be a devastating blow. William Powell Tuck, former professor of preaching at Southern Seminary, quotes this example and says that was the way

Jeremiah felt when he cried out: "O' God, where are you in the midst of all my turmoil?" Isolated, alone, beset by despair and doubt, hatred and hostility, ridicule and rejection, Jeremiah sought to ride out the storm. Children can be extremely cruel to other children and some people never grow up.

The man didn't see the note at first, though it was prominently displayed: "Goodbye. I never loved you. I don't want to see you again. Your ex-wife."

Tuck also quotes from W.H. Auden who said that Victor received such a note. Later, at sunset, he cried out, "Are you in heaven, Father?" But the sky said, "Address not known."

In such cases, "Why Lord, why me?" quickly becomes the theme song. Our world crashes — amidst the brokenness, this is all we can say.

Perhaps it is a lost job or a derailed career. You've worked hard, but now you are no longer wanted or needed. Rejection is an ugly snake. You are always chosen last when they choose teams. You

sing, your voice cracks, your friends laugh.

Rejection! Like a child of leprosy the door is slammed in your face. Again, loneliness moves in and unpacks her suitcase. Hear the voice of a Scottish preacher who had lost his wife, and the following Sunday said, "Those of you in the sunshine may believe, but those of us in the shadows must believe."

Somewhere in this state, we can hear Francis Thompson's words from "The Hound of Heaven": "I fled Him down the nights and down the days, I fled Him, down the arches of the years...."

When the storm gathers, the words hurt, or the afflictions are many, turn quickly to the God of the Bible: "I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor heights nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38).

I wonder if fourth-grader Janet ever knew that God still loved her!

## Chaplains tell of facing AIDS fears

HARRIMAN, Tenn. (BP) — When chaplains Dick Denson and Al Carden visited their first AIDS patient, they couldn't make themselves touch the person.

Fear is just one of the emotions which must be confronted by those wishing to minister to AIDS/HIV patients, according to Carden, of Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, Jackson, and Denson, director of pastoral care, Baptist Hospital of East Tennessee, Knoxville.

Why is AIDS such a difficult subject? asked Denson, who spoke with Carden to about 30 ministers and laypeople at an AIDS Awareness Conference at the Big Emory Baptist Association, Harriman, Tenn., one of two such conferences held this year by the Tennessee Convention's Discipleship Training Department.

The disease reminds him of the stigma once endemic to cancer or the emotions he experienced while visiting leprosy victims in Vietnam during his service there as a chaplain, Denson said.

AIDS has a social stigma for the Christian that hepatitis, tuberculosis or other deadly contagious diseases don't have, he noted. AIDS "is a disease that divides. It exposes our weaknesses, prejudices, fears. It confronts us as ministers to go into uncharted places."

When he couldn't shake the hand of a soldier with AIDS who

had come to him for help, Denson said he communicated something that "we don't want to communicate." The best thing to do is to be aware you might react that way and to acknowledge your reaction, he said.

Carden got to know another patient who was a former minister who had acquired the disease through heterosexual activity. The man had such low self-esteem he didn't want Carden to thank him for getting the chaplain involved

in the support group. Despite the man's religious training, he asked Carden before his death if any forgiveness existed for him. Another victim told Carden he was glad when he was diagnosed with cancer — it was a more acceptable disease to report to others. The grief of these people is very real, Carden said.

Through the support group, Carden reported he developed relationships, which are the key to his ministry to AIDS victims.

## A cup of kindness

The ancient Romans were unique in humiliating prisoners. The prisoners of the empire would be practically stripped and then paraded down the streets. They could be ridiculed, taunted, and subjected to the pitiless stares of the multitude. The idea was to rob the prisoner of his last shred of dignity. Many early Christians no doubt became such spectacles to the delight of the crowds.

"Alas! for the rarity of Christian charity," said Thomas Hood. Television and the media have brought the Roman arena to our living rooms.

There were men and women then — in the early days of the church and now — who could wear their chains like royal robes, and whose very presence bestowed dignity to their surroundings. They could make a common weed look like a rose or bequeath a glory to a lowly task.

Educator Lewis Nobles wore his chains with a quiet dignity as he was returned to Jackson last

week to stand trial. This is not to speak of his guilt or innocence before a court of law; it is to speak of Christian attitudes before the eternal Judge.

In Blood, Sweat, and Tears, Winston Churchill said, "Civilization means a society based upon the opinions of civilians. It means that violence, the rule of warriors and despotic chiefs, the conditions of camps and warfare, of riots and tyranny, give place to parliaments where laws are made, and independent courts of justice in which over long periods those laws are maintained."

Let it be emphasized: A man is entitled to a fair trial before judgment is passed. The poet observed, "Twas a thief said the last kind word to Christ. Christ took the kindness, and forgave the theft."

Like refreshing rain in the midst of the desert, let the words strike our hearts, "Do unto others as you would have them to do unto you." — GH

Praying &amp; Living Above Our Circumstances

STILLNESS, STRENGTH, STABILITY



## THE FRAGMENTS

## Accepting the challenge

There were some impressive things (and people) at the Baptist gathering for the inauguration of Mississippi College's new president, Howell Todd. Todd's parents were there to see him inaugurated. Jerry Rankin of the Foreign Mission Board (an MC graduate) and the Tennessee Senate sent greetings, along with 91 colleges and universities. There were 115 higher education institutions and 17 learning societies from 29 states represented.

The music was superb. "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies" and

"Great is Thy Faithfulness" were well chosen. Richard Joiner, choral director, and Billy Trotter, organist, did a tremendous job. The college prayer hymn by the choir was magnificent.

Morris Chapman (also an MC graduate), president of the SBC's Executive Committee, spoke of MC's academic excellence and of the three Mississippi College graduates (Holcomb, Sullivan, and Cothen) who had served the Sunday School Board for 50 years. Todd's statement, "I accept the challenge and I pledge to faithfully uphold the stewardship of this institution," was impressive and reassuring.

Jerry Clower, Baptist layman, pronounced the benediction. There have been thousands of college presidents inaugurated, but I doubt there has ever been a better or more distinctive benediction. Jerry thanked the Lord that "Brother and Mrs. Todd knew how to bring up a young 'un that the Lord could use." He thanked the Lord that Jim Henry, SBC president, was "conservative but not mean." He led us to feel that God, indeed, had smiled on the event. — GH

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION • 150 YEARS

150

SBC COOPERATIVE PROGRAM • \$150 MILLION

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# FMB trustees endorse restructuring proposal

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (BP) — A widely discussed proposal to restructure the Southern Baptist Convention won a nod of approval from Foreign Mission Board trustees during their April 27-29 meeting in Huntsville, Ala.

The trustees also asked "all Southern Baptist entities, ... especially our historic partner Woman's Missionary Union," to help them promote the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

In a separate action, trustees recommended they be allowed to use the name International Board when they face situations overseas where the word "missions" creates resistance and the appearance of Western colonialism.

Trustees appointed 58 missionaries in a vibrant, colorful service of about 8,000 Baptists from Alabama and neighboring states during the meeting. Among the appointees were a Chinese woman, Korean and African American cou-

ples, and a Palestinian man.

The Friday night, April 28, appointment service highlighted the meeting for trustees and the Alabama Baptists who hosted it in the Von Braun Civic Center.

Board President Jerry Rankin told the newly appointed missionaries God has called them to emerge as victorious witnesses to Jesus.

The appointee group was among the largest in recent years, bringing the total missionary count to 4,187. Almost a third of the

new appointees — which included four reappointees — have at least a year's experience in overseas missions.

The board's officers were all elected by acclamation. Re-elected were current chairman, Leon Hyatt of Pineville, La.; second vice chairman, Bob Oxford of Denver, Colo.; and secretary, Reed Lynn of Shawnee, Okla. Bill Blanchard was newly elected as first vice chairman. He grew up with missionary parents in southern India and now is pastor at First Church, Soddy Daisy, Tenn.

In other action, the board:

— appointed two committees,

one to study possible new policies that need to be set regarding foreign mission work and another to study the effectiveness of their own committee structure;

— heard of staff plans to orient new missionary training more around soul-winning and church starting and use more missionary experience in the curriculum; and

— voted to release to Ruschlikon Baptist Theological Seminary in Switzerland eight trust funds totaling about \$180,000 that the seminary had earlier asked them to manage, after direction is received from the donors who set up the funds.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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### Foreign Board names five couples with state ties

RICHMOND, Va. — Five couples with Mississippi ties were among 58 people named missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board April 28 in the Von Braun Civic Center in Huntsville, Ala.

Michael D. and Linda Ray will live in Ukraine, where he will promote religious education. Since 1992, he has been minister of education and administration at First Church, Martin, Tenn.

Born and reared in Crossett, Ark., he is a graduate of Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, La., and New Orleans Seminary. He served as a Home Mission Board summer missionary in Kansas.

Born in Aberdeen, Linda Ray grew up in Poplarville and considers First Church there her home church.

She attended Pearl River Junior College, and was graduated from William Carey College, Hattiesburg. She was an elementary teacher in the Bastrop, La., and Poplarville school systems. The Rays have two daughters.

David E. and Jana Wilkins will serve as missionary associates in Cyprus, where he will work as administrator and business manager for the Middle East and North Africa mission. A missionary associate is a person employed for a renewable four-year term to do a particular job for which he is equipped by education or experience.

Since 1985 David Wilkins has been with the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, where he most recently served as director of sales and customer service.

Born in Memphis, he received a bachelor's degree from Mississippi State University (MSU) and a master of business administration degree from Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

Born in McComb, Jana Wilkins grew up in Jackson and Natchez, as well as in Newton Center,

Mass., and New Orleans. A graduate of Vanderbilt, she was an engineer with Bell South Telecommunications.

The Wilkinses have one son. Raymond L. and Valerie Cearley will live in Jordan as missionary associates, he will work as the mission's business manager.

Since 1977 he has been associate pastor and children's minister at Prince Avenue Church in Athens, Ga. Born in Tulsa, Okla., he grew up in Mountain Home, Idaho.

He served in the U.S. Navy, is a graduate of the College of Idaho (now Albertson College) in Caldwell, Idaho, and attended Southwestern Seminary.

Valerie Cearley was born in Watertown, N.Y., and grew up in Missouri, Colorado, South Dakota, Maryland, and Florida. She is a graduate of Southwestern College in Chula Vista, Calif., and the University of Georgia in Athens. She also attended Mississippi College (MC), Clinton.

She was recently a denominational and contributing editor for the Baptist Literature Board in Atlanta.

The Cearleys have four children.

Thaddeus R. (Thad) Jr. and Jan Harper will live as missionary associates in Eritrea, Ethiopia, where he will work as a vocational teacher.

Since 1994 he has been an estimator for FMS Lighting Management Systems in Jackson. Born in Gulfport, Thad Harper grew up in Clinton. He attended Hinds Community College in Raymond, MC, and MSU. He has worked as an electronics instructor in Clinton Public Schools and as a locksmith.

Jan Harper was born in Baytown, Texas, and grew up in Graceville, Fla., and Clinton. She is a graduate of Hinds Community College and Belhaven College, Jackson. She was a short-term

investment worker with Cullen Center Bank & Trust in Houston and an accountant in the Mississippi Attorney General's Office.

The Harpers are members of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, where she has been pianist since 1988. They have three children.

Kenneth D. and Mattie McLemore will live in Moldova, where he will start and develop churches. Both Mattie and Kenneth McLemore were born in Oak Grove, La. He graduated from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge and New Orleans Seminary.

He served in the U.S. Army and was pastor of Springhill Church in Franklinton, La. He also worked as a clerk for Shippers Express in New Orleans. Since 1982 he has been pastor of First Church, Lake.

Mattie McLemore grew up in Lake Providence and Newellton, La. She attended Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, La., and was a teacher's assistant at Lake (Miss.) Elementary School and a service representative for South Central Bell in Bogalusa, La. The McLemores have two grown children.

### SBC Cooperative Program gifts up for month, year

NASHVILLE (BP) — Cooperative Program gifts continued to surpass previous marks for last year even though an accounting change made at the halfway mark in the fiscal year clarified the distinction between the CP and designated gifts, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

For the month of April 1995, gifts increased a hefty 16.46% over April of last year: \$12,653,924 to \$10,865,870, or an increase of \$1.7 million.

In accordance with an accounting change April 1 directed by the Executive Committee in its February meeting, all gifts are now either Cooperative Program — those without any restrictions, while the rest — with any restriction — are designated. Even with the change, there was an increase in all April figures and the SBC

fiscal year, at seven months, was up 4.32% over the previous year.

For the 1994-95 budget year to date, CP receipts stood at \$86,330,877, compared to 1993-94 which had \$82,756,762, or an increase of \$3,574,115. And the 1994-95 total was an increase of 8.39% over the required budget figure. More than \$11.3 million is required each month for the SBC Program Allocation Budget.

Designated gifts also were up — 5.43% — for the month of April compared to April 1994: \$10,559,299 to \$10,015,320. For the year-to-date, designated gifts are up 2.40%: \$92,554,642 compared to \$90,384,353.

The SBC Cooperative Program total includes undesignated receipts from individuals, churches, state conventions, and fellowships for distribution according to the 1994-95 program allocation budget.



Raymond and Valerie Cearley



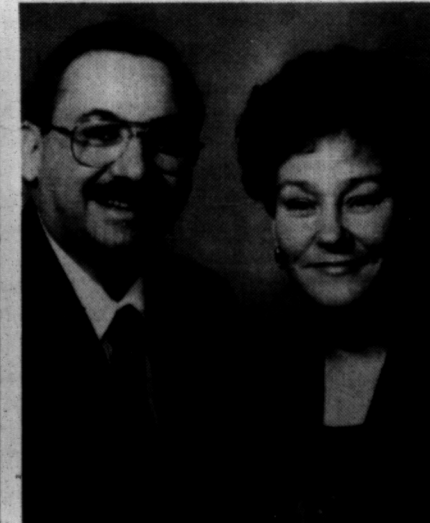
Thad and Jan Harper



David and Jana Wilkins



Michael and Linda Ray



Kenneth and Mattie McLemore



# Executive Committee, board nominees announced

ATLANTA (BP) — Nominees to serve on the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee and the boards, agencies, commissions, committees, and seminaries have been selected by the 1995 Committee on Nominations.

They will serve if elected by messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 20-22 at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

Several trustee vacancies will not appear in this report. These vacancies will be filled by the Committee on Nominations subcommittee when it meets in June prior to the SBC annual meeting. The final report will be printed in the SBC Bulletin, First Day, Part II.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** (80 members): 19 nominations considered; 9 new members; 10 renominations.

Nominees with terms to expire in 1999, replacing members ineligible for re-election include:

Herbert T. Thomas, pastor of Circlewood Church, Tuscaloosa, Ala., replacing Fred H. Wolf, Mobile, Ala.; Bruce G. Coe, pastor of First Church, Chandler, Ariz., replacing Simon H.L. Tsoi, Phoenix, Ariz.; T. James Williams, CPA and member of Trinity Southern Church, Fresno, Calif., replacing William K. Hall, San Juan Capistrano, Calif.; Don W. Buckley, physician and member of Olive Church, Pensacola, Fla., replacing William R. Parker, Lake Mary,

Fla.; Harold L. Finch, business owner/CEO and member of First Church, Raytown, Mo., replacing Newton C. Brill, West Plains, Mo.; Harry W. Pittam, pastor of First Church, Lovington, N.M., replacing James T. Roach, Albuquerque, N.M.; Joe W. Howard, associate pastor of Southern Hills Church, Oklahoma City, replacing Eldridge L. Miller, Sallisaw, Okla.

Also nominated for a term expiring in 1999: D. August Boto, attorney and member of Grand Avenue Church, Gainesville, Texas, replacing Gwyna S. Parker, Austin, Texas, who resigned.

Terry M. Robertson, pastor of Amherst Church, Amherst, N.Y., will be nominated for a term expiring in 1997 replacing David T. Button, Canton, N.Y., who moved out of state.

Nominated for second terms are Rex M. Terry, Fort Smith, Ark.; James G. Merritt Sr., Snellville, Ga.; Paul K. Kaneshiro, Pukalani, Hawaii; Jewel R. Pruitt, Glasgow, Ky.; Edward Gibbie McMillan, Baton Rouge, La.; Steven O. Walsh, Greensboro, N.C.; Anthony L. Jordan, Oklahoma City; Jack J. Rinks, Anderson, S.C.; Hollie Miller, Knoxville, Tenn.; Forrest E. Lowry III, Spring, Texas.

**FOREIGN MISSION BOARD** (91 members): 23 nominations considered; 14 new members; 9 renominations.

Nominees with terms to expire in 1999,

replacing members ineligible for re-election include:

Samuel Gene Dykes, mechanical engineer and member of First Church, Center Point, Birmingham, Ala., replacing Rick Lance, Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Robert E. Jones, pastor of Grandview Church, Anchorage, Alaska, replacing Rodney Gene Duncan, North Pole, Alaska; Thomas A. Wolf, senior pastor of The Church on Brady, Los Angeles, replacing John Jackson, San Bernardino, Calif.; Gene P. Smith, pastor of First Church, New Port Richey, Fla., replacing William H. Pace Jr., New Port Richey, Fla.; Allen R. Carter, pastor of Calvary Church, Bel Air, Md.; replacing Bruce A. Romoser, Ellicott, Md.; Frank W. Gunn, pastor of First Church, Biloxi, replacing L. Daniel Watts Jr., Jackson; Rodney H. Travis, senior pastor of First Church, Ellisville, Mo., replacing James Michael Goodwin, Festus, Mo.; Ed Yount, pastor of Woodlawn Church, Conover, N.C., replacing Horace W. Hall Sr., Wilmington, N.C.; Robert W. Claytor, president of Carpenters for Christ International and member of Rock Hill Church, Inman, S.C., replacing Bruce Alan Russell Sr., Charleston, S.C.; David L. Evans, pastor of Trinity Church, Amarillo, Texas, replacing B.G. Clements, Austin, Texas.

Also nominated for terms expiring in 1999: Hubert G. Keefer Jr., pastor of Hillcrest Church, Hillcrest Heights, Md.,

replacing William L. Bort Sr., Temple Hills, D.C., who resigned; Patricia Ann Badon, layperson and member of Harrell's Ferry Road Church, Baton Rouge, La., replacing Lawson Swearingen, Shreveport, La., who resigned.

Roy S. Faulkner, director of missions and member of Corinth Church, London, Ky., will be nominated for a term expiring in 1996 replacing Terrell D. Mays, Elizabethtown, Ky., who resigned. Charles W. Clary, pastor of Tate Springs Church, Arlington, Texas, will be nominated for a term expiring in 1998 replacing Curt Dodd, Houston, who moved out of state. Nominated for second terms are Carol D. Gilbreath, Florence, Ala.; Stephen P. Davis, Russellville, Ark.; Wallace Edgar, Texarkana, Ark.; James W. Austin, Flowery Branch, Ga.; Michael C. Catt, Albany, Ga.; James T. Garland, Paducah, Ky.; Richard D. Sisk, Memphis, Tenn.; Rick Scarborough, Pearland, Texas; Karen A. Dishman, Glen Allen, Va.

**HOME MISSION BOARD** (90 members): 21 nominations considered; 5 new members; 16 renominations.

Nominees with terms to expire in 1999, replacing members ineligible for re-election include:

Michael T. Hailey, senior pastor of First Church, Lakeland, Fla., replacing Olan K. Wills, Plant City, Fla.; Harold Walker, minister of music and education of First Church, Gallup, N.M., replacing Marvin L. Capehart, Albuquerque, N.M.; Andrew W. Stabler Jr., layperson and member of First Southern Church, Williamsport, Pa., replacing James E. Ward, York, Pa.; Sandy Z. Sandlin, pastor of First Church, Beaumont, Texas, replacing Elton Ikels, Adkins, Texas.

Jim R. Newman, layperson and member of First Church, Frisco, Texas, will be nominated for a term expiring in 1997 replacing John E. Cullwell, Early, Texas, who resigned.

Nominated for second terms are Ann W. Cushing, Montgomery, Ala.; Wyndham Cook Jr., Waldo, Ark.; Dwight "Ike" Reighard, Fayetteville, Ga.; Rose A. Bear, Terre Haute, Ind.; N.N. "Andy" Antonson, Wichita, Kan.; Gary L. Southard, Ashland, Ky.; Shirley E. Russell, Columbia, La.; Damon Patterson, Monroe, Mich.; Joe M. Cobb, Booneville, Miss.; Jay S. Smith, Port Smith, Maine; Foyd Bennett, Vale, N.C.; Billy R. Bissell, Muskogee, Okla.; Edward R. Futrell, Johnson City, Tenn.; John P. Avant Jr., Brownwood, Texas; Roger Lee Gorby, Ladysmith, Va.; William Ray Sar-ratt, Atlanta.

## Henry announces Committee on Committees

ATLANTA (BP) — Appointments to the Southern Baptist Convention's Committee on Committees have been announced by SBC President Jim Henry.

Henry, pastor of First Church of Orlando, Fla., announced the Committee on Committees May 5. The SBC bylaws require the president to announce the appointment of the Committee on Committees, along with the Resolutions Committee, "at least 45 days in advance of the meeting."

The Committee on Committees has 70 members, two from each of the 35 state or regional conventions qualified for representation on SBC entities. The committee announced by Henry has 43 members from church- and denomination-related positions and 23 members who are not church or denominational staff members.

Henry named Mark Corts, pastor of Calvary Church, Winston-Salem, N.C., as the committee chairman.

Other Committee on Committees members are:

**ALABAMA:** Dale Wallace, layperson, First Church, Trussville; Charles Freeman, minister, Hillwood Church, Huntsville.

**ALASKA:** Joe Draper, layperson, First Church, Kotzebue; Bob Buster, minister, First Church, Eagle River.

**ARIZONA:** Jerry Benson, layperson, First Church, Chandler; Barry Norwood, minister, First Southern Church, Prescott.

**ARKANSAS:** Barry King, minister, Grand Avenue Church, Hot Springs; David Uth, minister, Immanuel Church, El Dorado.

**CALIFORNIA:** Kent Dacus, layperson, Magnolia Avenue Church, Riverside; Randy McWhorter, minister, First Church, Fountain Valley.

**COLORADO:** Carl Rider, minister, Mississippi Avenue Church, Aurora; Ed Gatlin, minister, First Southern Church, Westminster.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:** Ed Williams, minister, First Church, Wheaton, Md.; Mark Houvenagle, minister, Clinton Church, Clinton, Md.

**FLORIDA:** George Thomasson, minister, Northwood Church, West Palm Beach; Gary Crawford, minister, Westside Church, Gainesville.

**GEORGIA:** Don Bouldin, minister, Briarlake Church, Decatur; Mike Fountain, layperson, Second Church, Columbus.

**HAWAII:** David Martin, minister, Kailua Church,

Kailua; Deanna Aoki, layperson, Pali View Church, Kaneohe.

**ILLINOIS:** Bill Pauls, layperson, First Church, Marion; Roger Marshall, minister, First Church, Effingham.

**INDIANA:** Charles Culp, layperson, Calvary Church, Seymour; Steve Faith, minister, Ross Church, Gary.

**KANSAS-NEBRASKA:** Dean Dennington, layperson, Emmanuel Church, Overland Park, Kan.; Don Lacy, minister, Calvary Valley Center Church, Valley Center, Kan.

**KENTUCKY:** Keith Walker, layperson, Carlisle Avenue Church, Louisville; Kevin McCallon, minister, First Church, Paducah.

**LOUISIANA:** Joe Kite, layperson, Parkview Church, Alexandria; Joe Perry, minister, First Church, Bossier City.

**MARYLAND-DELAWARE:** Dennis Ball, minister, First Church, Laurel, Md.; Pete Holt, layperson, Faith Church, Glen Burnie, Md.

**MICHIGAN:** Jerry Bailey, minister, Gorham Church, Jackson; Betty Babb, layperson, Merriman Road Church, Garden City.

**MISSISSIPPI:** Randy Turner, minister, First Church, Laurel; Bernie Ebberts, layperson, First Church, Brookhaven.

**MISSOURI:** Robert Barnes, layperson, Plaza Heights Church, Blue Springs; Jim Hardwicke, minister, Frederick Boulevard Church, St. Joseph.

**NEVADA:** Frank Lewis, minister, Green Valley Church, Henderson; Nancy Owen, layperson, South Reno Church, Reno.

**NEW ENGLAND:** David Platt, minister, First Church, Sudbury, Mass.; Randy Reno, minister, Christ Church, Hopedale, Mass.

**NEW MEXICO:** Melody Marrow, layperson, Taylor Ranch Church, Albuquerque; Mack McCarthick, minister, Hillcrest Church, Lovington.

**NEW YORK:** Bob Cope, layperson, Christ Community Church, Waldwick, N.J.; Charles Long, minister, Somerset Hills Church, Basking Ridge, N.J.

**NORTH CAROLINA:** Mark Corts, chairman; Dot Seagraves, layperson, Carmel Church, Charlotte.

**NORTHWEST:** Jerry Kanzler, layperson, Emmanuel Church, Pullman, Wash.; Keith Evans, minister, Central Church, Monmouth, Ore.

**OHIO:** Bob Hatcher, minister, First Church, Mt. Orab; Sam Koom, layperson, Jersey Church, Pataskala.

**OKLAHOMA:** Russell Duck, minister, First Church, Woodward; Sam Hammons, minister, Quail Springs Church, Oklahoma City.

**PENNSYLVANIA-S. JERSEY:** Jim Walker, minister,

First Southern Church, Williamsport, Pa.; Steve Shelton, minister, Buxmont Church, Hatboro, Pa.

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** Ron Davis, minister, North Side Church, Greenwood; Don Brock, layperson, Gateway Church, Irmo.

**TENNESSEE:** Dean Haun, minister, Hermitage Hills Church, Hermitage; Jerry Childs, layperson, First Church Concord, Knoxville.

**TEXAS:** Gary Miller, minister, Sagamore Hill Church, Fort Worth; Don Wilson, layperson, Green Acres Church, Tyler.

**UTAH-IDAHO:** Ed Chaney, minister, Southeast Church, Salt Lake City; Warren Osborne, minister, First Church, West Valley City, Utah.

**VIRGINIA:** Albert Peveral Jr., minister, Jackson Memorial Church, Chesapeake; Becky Bolinsky, layperson, First Church, Roanoke.

**WEST VIRGINIA:** Jim Boley, layperson, Good Shepherd Church, Scott Depot; Delbert Walker, minister, White Sulphur Springs Church, White Sulphur.

**WYOMING:** Jim Hutto, minister, Jackson Hole Church, Jackson; Wayne Spencer, minister, College Heights Church, Casper

## Agee to chair Tellers Committee

ATLANTA (BP) — Jim Henry, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has named members of the Tellers Committee for the June 20-22 annual meeting of the SBC in Atlanta.

Bob Agee, president of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, will serve as committee chairman, according to Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla.

Other members of the committee are:

**ALABAMA:** Larry Felkins, pastor, Maytown Church, Maytown.

**ARKANSAS:** William Hatfield, pastor, First Church, Dierks.

**FLORIDA:** Bill Montgomery, pastor, Downtown Church, Orlando; Darrell Mitchell, pastor, First Church, Chiefland; Denton Sumerall, pastor, Warrington Church, Pensacola.

**GEORGIA:** Thomas Jernigan, pastor, Dean Forest Church, Savannah; Bill Pope, pastor, Western Heights Church, LaGrange.

**KANSAS:** Brad Rogge, pastor, First Church, Riverton.

**KENTUCKY:** Gayle Toole, pastor, Edgewood Church, Nicholasville.

**MARYLAND:** Rich Peoples, pastor, First Baptist Dundalk, Baltimore.

**MISSISSIPPI:** Chuck Moody, pastor, First Church, Morton.

**MISSOURI:** Betty Sexton, layperson, St. Joseph.

**NEVADA:** Dan Raley, pastor, First Church, Boulder City.

**NEW MEXICO:** Don Archer, layperson, Hatch.

**NORTH CAROLINA:** Ron Vernon, pastor, Florida Street Church, Greensboro.

**OREGON:** Bevan McWhirter, denominational employee, Portland.

**OHIO:** Jerry Anderson, pastor, First Church, Vermilion.

**OKLAHOMA:** Dave Bryan, pastor, Chisholm Heights Church, Mustang.

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** Kevin Bennett, pastor, Fort Johnson Church, Charleston.

**TENNESSEE:** Bob Stitts, pastor, Bayside Church, Harrison.

**TEXAS:** Randy White, pastor, First Church, Monday; Randy Marsh, pastor, Rosemeade Church, Carrollton.

**VIRGINIA:** Ray Beardon, pastor, First Church, Woodbridge.



## Held without bond...

# Nobles returned to Mississippi to answer federal indictment

By William H. Perkins Jr.

A U.S. magistrate in Jackson on May 3 ordered former Mississippi College President Lewis Nobles detained without bond after U.S. marshals returned him from a federal prison hospital in Missouri.

Wearing what was apparently prison-issue clothing — a crew-neck T-shirt, ill-fitting khaki pants, and blue slip-on tennis shoes — Nobles, 70, was led handcuffed into the courtroom and seated at a table with his attorney, Grady Tollison of Oxford.

Nobles appeared thin, pale, and unshaven, but stood erect and answered "Yes, sir," in an audible voice to questions posed by U.S. Magistrate Alfred Nichols Jr. during his initial appearance on a federal arrest warrant.

When assistant U.S. attorney Robert Anderson of Jackson asked Nichols to hold Nobles without bond, Tollison requested additional time because he had not conferred with his client since marshals returned him to Missis-

sippi earlier in the afternoon.

Nichols granted Tollison's request, but ordered Nobles detained and indicated that he was not inclined to grant bond at a future hearing.

Nobles was then transported by marshals to the Madison County Jail in Canton, which has a contract to house federal prisoners.

The federal arrest warrant was issued by U.S. District Judge William Barbour of Jackson after Nobles failed to appear at a Jan. 26 pretrial hearing in connection with his Feb. 7 trial date on a 21-count federal indictment.

Brad Pigott, U.S. Attorney for the southern district of Mississippi, as a matter of policy will not confirm or deny that Nobles had agreed to plead guilty in a plea bargain arrangement to some of the charges at the Jan. 26 hearing.

The indictment alleges Nobles, while president of the Baptist-affiliated school in Clinton, used about \$1.7 million in donations intended for the college to commit money laundering, mail fraud, tax

evasion, and illegal interstate acts of immorality.

FBI agents traced Nobles to an expensive San Francisco hotel about 13 hours after he failed to appear at the pretrial hearing.

He allegedly swallowed a poisonous substance as the FBI agents closed in on him, and he was rushed to a San Francisco hospital where he underwent two emergency surgeries to repair damage to his stomach and esophagus.

During his stay in the San Francisco hospital, Nobles also suffered what Ben Nash of Clinton, his physician son-in-law, has described in court as "metabolic encephalopathy," or changes in the structure of the brain.

After his release from the hospital, Nobles was transported to the U.S. Medical Center for Federal Prisoners in Springfield, Mo., where he underwent almost two months of mental tests ordered by Barbour.

No test results have been released.



## Carey team fares well

In its first year of competition, the William Carey College forensics team recently placed third-highest in individual events total in a national tournament in Shreveport, La., sponsored by the Pi Kappa Delta, the nation's largest forensics fraternity. The team also captured the sweepstakes award in the Mississippi Individual Events Championships held on the Carey campus April 7-8. Members of the team are (left to right): Tony Mosely of Laurel, Victoria Easterling of Hattiesburg, Cassie Beutin of French Camp, Leanne Bennett of Diamondhead, Robin McGehee of Jackson, Julie Barshinger of York, Pa., Suzanne Dubose of Mobile, Ala., Jenny Deuschle of Bay St. Louis, Justin Bunton of Loranger, La., Roger Lott of Sumrall, and team director Tom Huebner.

## SWBTS trustees pick dean, cut budget by \$500,000

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP) — Southwestern Seminary trustees adopted a cost-cutting budget and took actions aimed at healing differences between conservative trustees and faculty and students.

In a move applauded by the seminary faculty, trustees appointed a long-time seminary professor, Tommy Lea, as new dean of the school of theology, replacing Bruce Corley, who resigned in March.

"The naming of an insider to this position was very important," said seminary President Ken Hemphill. "This sends a real clear message that this administration has absolute confidence in our faculty."

Lea, 56, holds an engineering degree from Mississippi State University and a master's and doctorate from Southwestern.

He will replace Corley when he leaves in the fall to accept a faculty position with Baylor University's George W. Truett Seminary.

Hemphill said the new \$22,330,244 budget for 1995-96, while \$574,060 less than the current budget, is an effort to use funds responsibly while anticipating greater costs in education and a possible decline in enrollment in the fall.

Hubert Martin, vice president for business affairs, said that despite the lower budget the school is in no debt and is in "sound financial condition."

While trimming costs, the budget includes almost \$700,000 for a 4% salary increase for faculty and other staff members, which has been a major priority of trustees in recent years.

## Lucedale pastor, Chisolm, dies in May 5 auto mishap

Sammy J. Chisolm Jr., pastor of Shady Grove Church, Lucedale, was killed May 5 in an automobile accident in Mobile County, Ala.

Chisolm attended Clarke College, William Carey College, and New Orleans Seminary. He was former pastor of Phalti, Mount Olive, and Oakvale churches in Mississippi. He also pastored the Canyon Ferry Road Church in

East Helena, Mont.

Services are to be held May 11 at Shady Grove Church. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

Chisolm is survived by his wife Linda; his mother Maxine of Jackson; a daughter, Staci Chisolm Taylor of Lucedale; sisters Joyce Dilmore of Jackson, Judy Sanders of Ridgeland, and Faye Chisolm of Jackson.

## Southern trustees approve budget with impending \$900,000 cutback

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — Nearly \$1 million in expenses will be cut from the budget of Southern Seminary in a largely unexplained "budget reduction" approved by trustees April 19.

Documents approved by trustees say this \$918,497 reduction "will be realized substantially

through a program of restructuring, an early retirement incentive program, a change in post-retirement benefit policy, and other budget reductions, if necessary."

In a news conference after the trustee meeting, seminary President Albert Mohler and trustee chairman Rick White declined to

say how many positions might be eliminated or when news of the staff cuts would be made public. They also declined to say how many faculty members would be eligible for the early-retirement package or what the terms of that package would be.

The trustee-approved budget for the 1995-96 fiscal year assumes that the reductions will have been made by July 31, 1995, the day before the new fiscal year begins. Mohler has authority to make the reductions in consultation with the seminary's financial board, a small group of trustees.

Both Mohler and faculty sources said the early retirement incentive was not an attempt by the administration to get rid of faculty members. The idea was developed by the faculty and presented to the president and trustees before the recent crisis related to the Carver School of Church Social Work, they said.

Alumni giving has declined from a peak of \$400,000 per year in 1986 to \$100,000 in 1994, Mohler said. Only 5% of alumni gave anything to the seminary in 1994, down from a previous high of 20% participation, he added.

While the seminary received a couple of major donations in 1994, overall giving to the school is down, officials said. The budget adopted for 1995-96 anticipates a further reduction of \$400,000 in gift income. With that reduction, the total income budgeted from gifts will have been cut in half since the 1991-92 fiscal year.

## Training sessions set for Crossover volunteers

ATLANTA (BP) — Training sessions for Crossover Atlanta volunteers will be Friday, June 16. Most Crossover activities will take place Saturday, June 17.

Crossover is the evangelistic thrust before the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. Volunteers will help local churches conduct a myriad of evangelistic events, from door-to-door surveys to block parties.

Training for neighborhood

surveys will begin at 7 p.m. at Briarcliff Church, 3039 Briarcliff Road in Atlanta. More than 80 Atlanta area churches will participate in the door-to-door surveys, said Keith Walker, Home Mission Board associate director of personal evangelism.

To register to participate in Crossover Atlanta, call the Georgia Baptist Convention Evangelism Department, (404) 936-5233.

## HMB gets new address, number

ATLANTA (BP) — The Home Mission Board is scheduled to move into its new office building Memorial Day weekend.

The board will close Thursday evening, May 25, and reopen Tuesday morning, May 30, said Joe Gatlin, HMB facilities management director.

The agency's new address will be 4200 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, Ga. 30202-4174.

The board's main telephone number will be (404) 410-6000 until Sept. 1. Afterwards, the area code for Alpharetta will change from 404 to 770.

## MC seeks trustee nominations

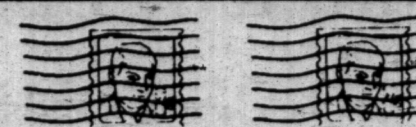
The Mississippi College board of trustees is in the process of developing its slate of nominees for eight trustee positions, with three-year terms beginning Jan. 1, 1996.

Nominees must be Southern Baptists. Recommendations should be made in writing to the Office of the President, Mississippi College, P.O. Box 4186, Clinton, MS 39058. Deadline for recommendations is June 15, 1995.





# Letters to the editor



## Secularized Easter

Editor:

We Southern Baptist Christians who have been faithful to God and to the local church have the past few weeks been taking a closer look at the resurrection of our Lord and Savior. We have studied the last week in the life of our Lord in Sunday School classes, and we have heard several messages from the pulpit on the price paid at Calvary and the power of the resurrected Lord. Both the message of the cross and the empty tomb are central and vital for our existence as Christians today!

Yet we as Southern Baptist Christians have allowed the world's emphasis on Easter to dominate this time of yearly celebration. We have succumbed to the level, it seems, of placing equal emphasis on the resurrection and Easter bunnies and Easter eggs! This became vividly alarming to me as two weeks ago, I entered our Baptist Book Store and there to greet me was a table on which was placed a cross that was totally dominated by Easter bunnies, Easter eggs, and other worldly symbols of our Christian celebration of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior. How far have we fallen that we allow this to happen? Easter is a time of resurrection and victory celebration, not Easter eggs and bunny rabbits.

My deep desire is that we don't compromise with the world and allow this to happen again next year as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Richard E. Green  
Monticello

## Tolerance should rule

Editor:

I am writing in response to the article quoting Herschel Hobbs with reference to Calvinism. As a person who holds the Doctrines of Grace, I am somewhat confused. Southern Baptists have long tolerated many variant theological positions, especially in the seminaries. For example, liberation theology (finding expression in feminist theology), radical liberal theology (including denial of the supernatural origin of Scripture, adoption of forms of evolutionary thought, etc.), and even the position that the truly saved could lose their salvation have been tolerated and defended in Southern Baptist circles.

However, if a person ever identifies himself or herself as Reformed or a Calvinist, they are shunned or at least looked down upon. The very first Baptist missionary, William Carey, was a Calvinist. The founders of the Southern Baptist Convention all held to the Doctrines of Grace. Boyce, Broadus, and the other men involved in the founding of Southern Seminary likewise held such views.

I agree with Hobbs that no human author could ever be equal

to or supercede the Scripture. However, let me add that it would do our seminarians some good at times to set aside Barth, Brunner, and Bultmann and read J.P. Boyce and J.L. Dagg.

Let us then disagree on some points without misrepresenting another position and without being disagreeable.

Neil Gant  
Vardaman

## On rewriting history

Editor:

Have you taken the time to look at your school-age children's history books lately? I recently was browsing through my niece's seventh-grade history text, and what I discovered appalled me. I could read an entire chapter from this book concerning the life of Mohammed and the Islamic faith. I could also read a chapter on Buddha. I could read about how I could gain "enlightenment" through Buddhism. I searched and searched through this book, and I could not even find one paragraph concerning the life of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If there was ever such a thing as a wake-up call, this was it. Where is the so-called separation of church and state that the ACLU and other organizations scream about constantly? Apparently this only applies to Christians. In this age of "cultural diversity" our children are going to be taught that Christianity is not significant. They are going to be taught that Islam, Buddhism, and all of these other religions are more important than ours. Will your child come home from school one day and tell you that she learned that the earth is her mother and the sky is her father? We need to be vigilant in keeping the teachings of our Lord in our children's minds. We need to do everything we can to see that Christianity is not excluded from the events in world history. I urge you to get involved and find out what your child is being taught in school. I have joined my local PTA. My daughter is only in kindergarten now, but when she brings home her first history book, I will be the first one to read it.

Billy R. Philley Jr.  
Nesbit

## Bombing opens eyes

Editor:

Over the past few days (following the bombing in Oklahoma City) we have all been confronted with the preciousness of life, especially the lives of children. We have been brought to tears as pictures of mangled, disfigured, and lifeless little bodies have been thrust before our eyes. This event which has transpired leads us to cry out for justice, and we long to see those responsible quickly dealt with.

Sunday (April 23), the President made some interesting statements as he spoke to those who

lost their loved ones in this terrible tragedy. Two of those statements were: "In the face of death let us honor life," and "We planted a tree in honor of the children." These statements seem to say that we are able to value life, and I agree wholeheartedly. Why are we to value life? Because God created man in his own image and he calls us to value it. But let us not forget that God forms the baby in the womb (Job 10:8-12, Psalm 139:13-16), and that he is concerned with their safety, too.

There seems to be much hypocrisy when we as a nation mourn over some children who are mangled, disfigured, and killed, but never shed a tear over others who are "legally" butchered by abortion. We have pictures of these children, too, but you do not see them, for those who control our media believe that it is a woman's right to be able to do this to her own child. Could it be that God has smeared the blood of the innocent in our faces due to our own hypocrisy? Our President is blaming a number of groups for encouraging the Oklahoma tragedy. Let me quickly remind him that when we as a nation are willing to "legally" kill the most innocent then we should not be surprised when such crimes as the one in Oklahoma City take place. I say the blood is on the hands of those who champion murder in the womb of the mother. If we are going to honor life, let us begin with the most innocent who are in the mother's womb!

Thomas Winn, pastor  
Graceway Church  
Jackson

## Tragedy's answers

Editor:

Many Americans are troubled and many more are fearful, especially after all we saw and heard surrounding the tragedy of Oklahoma City. In some cases, Christians are being portrayed as "right-wing" fringe extremists who are white supremacists filled with hate. Now this may be true with some people; however, those whose lives fit such a definition are not Christians at all. In fact, in America, and in much of our western society, the term Christian has been abused, misused, and generally taken out of context. It is imperative that we not only come to an understanding of what true Christianity is today, but that we see it demonstrated in the lives of those who attend our churches. America, our freedoms, and our families are in deep trouble. It is far more than what the average church member is aware of. We must also remember, that the answers to our greatest problems will not come from the White House, but from God's house; a people different from the world and "set apart" for the Lord himself.

Why did God allow this tragedy in Oklahoma City? Could he not have prevented it from happening?

Although he did not do it, yes, he could have prevented it. He allowed it because he allows a people and a nation to freely choose their own destiny.

We do need a militia today, yet all the military equipment and weapons in the world will not reverse the shame that God allows in a nation because of its sin. The militia needed today however must come from within the church which recognizes that our fight is not against flesh and blood, nor do we fight with weapons that are carnal but are mighty in God. James tells us that "the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God." The weapons desperately needed today include prayer, faith, (which replaces fear), and the righteousness demonstrated through those who follow Jesus.

David White, pastor  
Calvary Church  
Columbia

## SBC roots in Calvin

Editor:

For (Frank) Stagg and (Herschel) Hobbs to summarily dismiss the theological system of Calvinism is, in my opinion, to uproot this Convention from its mother soil. No one can deny the fact that the Southern Baptist Convention grew from seed planted in rich, Calvinist soil.

I totally reject the patronizing way Stagg and Hobbs have addressed those of us who are Calvinists. Far from presenting a view that is "contrary to the very nature of God," Calvinists uphold all the attributes of deity without contradiction. Furthermore, Calvinists do not depict God as a crooked producer presiding over a "rigged television show." These statements, made by men who should know better, are glowing examples of ill-informed misrepresentations. I say, if these men can disprove our doctrines, let them do so from the scriptures alone.

It is true, as Hobbs has said, that we must give an infinitely greater value to the words of Christ over the words of Calvin. Never let us be accused of putting the hermeneutic cart before the historical horse. Who is Calvin, but a commentator? It is interesting to me that the majority of orthodox churches have, for over 300 years, maintained a firm conviction that Christ's teachings are best clarified in that loftiest of theological systems known as Calvinism.

The churches gave due and diligent consideration of the issues at hand during the Synod of Dort held from Nov. 13, 1618, to May 9, 1619. At its conclusion, the 84 representatives accepted the five canons of Calvinism and rejected the Arminian Remonstrance. Most pastors and lay persons are unwilling to invest the years of study which this subject demands. Without a doubt, Calvinism is unpalatable to the man-centered churches of today because the Doctrines of Grace abase man and exalt God as

the sovereign Lord of all.

C.H. Spurgeon, regarding Calvinism, (said): "You cannot vanquish a Calvinist... And mark you in these times when error is so rife and neology strives to be so rampant, it is no little thing to put into the hands of a young man a weapon with which he can slay his foe."

Keith Powell, pastor  
East Louisville Church  
Louisville

## Are we "leadable?"

Editor:

Churches seem to be composed of people who all want to "have it their way." While many claim to be born-again believers and often pray for God's will to be done in their life, they apparently have a hard time "letting go and letting God" have control.

God extends a call to a man. The man answers that call and surrenders his life to the ministry to preach. A church seeks God's will to find a pastor — spends time in prayer, searches for the man they believe to be God's man, and extends a call. The God-called servant responds according to God's will and becomes that church's pastor. How should we respond to the leadership of our pastors? Let's consider a few questions.

1) Do we consider the pastor a God-called man or a paid servant? Quite frankly, sometimes we often treat them like underpaid servants. They are men called by God — we need to respond accordingly.

2) Do we support him as God commands? We should honor God with our presence at church services. We then in turn support the pastor who is delivering God's Word. We should want to be in fellowship with the body of believers assembled in God's house — not just for an occasional Sunday morning service, but for Sunday School, Discipleship Training, evening worship, and Wednesday night prayer service. Believers are to draw strength from God's Word. His called man, our pastor, needs the support of our presence as he delivers that word.

3) Do we truly let our pastor lead? God has called him to lead and we've called him to lead. When we try to invoke our "Well, we've always done it this way," or "We want to do this on such and such Sunday," we start taking leadership away from him and start on the road to "our way," and that way generally leads swiftly to destruction for ourselves and our churches. We need to realize that our pastor as God's man, while very much human, is led by God's Spirit. He deserves our respect and we need to let him be our leader. This doesn't mean that we can then sit down and let the pastor be totally responsible for everything that comes along. We have a responsibility as God's children to do our part as he leads.

Mary Johnston  
Yazoo City



# HMB's Phil Roberts will chair SBC Credentials Committee

ATLANTA (BP) — Members of the Credentials Committee for the June 20-22 Atlanta meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention have been named by SBC President Jim Henry.

The committee will be chaired by Phil Roberts, director of the Home Mission Board's Interfaith Witness Department in Atlanta, according to Henry, who is also pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla.

Other committee members are:

ALABAMA: Rickey Michael, pastor, First Church, Athens.

ARKANSAS: Jim LaGrome, pastor,

First Southern Church, Bryant.

FLORIDA: Pete Menendez, pastor, First Church, Edgewater; Lee M. Sheppard, pastor, Arlington Church.

GEORGIA: Ben Prichett, layperson, Jonesboro; Paul Mason, pastor, Central Church, Douglasville; Terry Cothran, director of missions, Lawrenceville.

INDIANA: Ray Deeter, pastor, Faith Southern Church.

IOWA: Ed Gregory, pastor, Immanuel Church, Cedar Rapids.

KENTUCKY: Scott Mackey, pastor, Glasgow Church, Glasgow.

LOUISIANA: B.K. Miller, pastor, First Church, Baker; Danny Wood, pastor, First Church, Ruston.

MARYLAND: Dan Barkdull, layperson, Laurel.

MISSISSIPPI: Roy Ward, layperson, Jackson.

NEW MEXICO: Winfred Walker, pastor, Highland Church, Albuquerque.

NEW YORK: Arnoldo Campbell, pastor, Evergreen Church, Brooklyn.

NORTH CAROLINA: George Worrell, pastor, Lawndale Church, Greensboro.

OREGON: Claude Butler, pastor, Valley Church, McMinnville.

OKLAHOMA: Larry Nigh, pastor, Northeast Church, Ponca City; Stan Daniel, pastor, Kentucky Avenue Church, Oklahoma City.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Tommy Huddle-

ston, pastor, Catawba Church, Rock Hill; Thomas M. Knotts, director of missions, Graniteville.

TENNESSEE: Robert Gamble, layperson, Columbia; Doug White, pastor, First Mt. Olive South Church, Knoxville.

TEXAS: Russell Clemons, pastor,

Spring Valley Church, Dallas; Mike Smith, director of missions, Jacksonville; Tom Shelton, pastor, First Church, Weatherford.

VIRGINIA: Tommy Davidson, pastor, Riverside Church, Newport News; Dan Watkins, pastor, Columbia Church, Falls Church.

## Exchange program opens eyes for foreign students and hosts

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Murray and Debra Cain of Durant have their own "foreign mission" work right here in Mississippi.

The Cains, state coordinators for the Aspect non-profit international student exchange program, strive to place the foreign teenagers accepted into the program with Christian families in Mississippi.

Their efforts have been so successful that they are currently seeking 12 additional families for foreign students who will arrive in Mississippi in time for the start of the school year in early August.

"Most have heard little about the Word of God. This is a wonderful opportunity to share our faith and homes with students from Europe and South America," Murray Cain said.

Keith and Barbara Powell of Philadelphia contacted the Cains after reading about the program last year in **The Baptist Record**. As a result, 17-year old Brazilian Pedro Fernandes arrived at their home in August 1994.

Powell is former pastor of North Calvary Church in Philadelphia. He and his family now attend Spring Creek Church while he begins a special ministry to tackle the burgeoning casino industry in Neshoba County.

"Having Pedro in our home has been an exceptional experience for us. He jumped in and started participating in everything we do," Keith Powell said.

Pedro, who had good command of English when he arrived in the U.S., regularly attends church with the Powells and even lettered in football at Neshoba Central High School.

"He's eager to learn and willing

to try new things," Keith said.

The Powell children — Daniel, 17, and Rachel, 14 — have formed strong attachments to Pedro, according to Keith, and Pedro has taught Daniel a number of words in his native Portuguese tongue.

"Pedro has even picked up some of our Southern slang," he added.

Keith said Pedro comes from a Catholic background, and his exposure to a devout Southern Baptist family has been enlightening, both for Pedro and the Powells.

"This has given me an opportunity as a father to help my children understand that there is a big world out there to be reached for Jesus. This has also given us the opportunity to plant a great many seeds with Pedro for his return to Brazil," Keith said.

Pedro's departure is an issue the Powells haven't yet taken up.

"We haven't decided how we're going to handle it. It's going to be a very emotional time for all of us," Keith said.

Murray Cain said the Powells' story is not uncommon among families who have volunteered for the program.

"There is a girl coming from Rio de Janeiro whose brother was an exchange student two years ago. He is returning to attend Mississippi College in Clinton and he wants a Baptist family for his sister," Murray said.

For more information on Aspect, contact the Cains at 328 S. Jackson Street, Durant, MS 39063. Telephone: (601) 653-3331. The Aspect home office in California can be contacted toll-free at (800) USYOUTH (879-6884).

Deadline for placement with host families is May 31, 1995.

## Alabama's Charles Carter will chair Resolutions Committee

ATLANTA (BP) — Members of the Resolutions Committee for the June 20-22 Atlanta meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention have been named by SBC President Jim Henry.

The committee will be chaired by Charles Carter, pastor of Shades Mountain Church, Birmingham, Ala., according to Henry, who is also pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla.

Other committee members are:

FLORIDA: Marsha McKinney, layperson, Winter Haven.

HAWAII: Paul Kaneshiro, pastor,

Pukalani Church, Pukalani, Maui.

ILLINOIS: Frank Thomas, pastor, New Faith Church, Matteson.

LOUISIANA: Ferris Jordan, seminary professor, Baton Rouge.

NORTH CAROLINA: Russ Bush, seminary administrator, Raleigh; Donald Dowless, pastor, Corinth Church, Louisville; Don Bailey, layperson, Asheville.

OKLAHOMA: Kevin Kilbreath, layperson, Oklahoma City.

TEXAS: Joe Reynolds, layperson, Houston.

VIRGINIA: Bob Reccord, pastor, First Church, Norfolk; Audrey Welborn, layperson, Charlottesville.

### HEALTHCARE

## FOR THE RECORD

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tered nurse sees how everyone's adjusting to the new arrival and answers any questions that might have come up.

We're also at work expanding our efforts to educate the public. Our Baptist Healthcaring Line, staffed by registered nurses, offers free health information and physician referrals to the public with a single phone call. Our Cancer HelpLink® phone service provides around-the-clock cancer information to interested callers. And the recent opening of The Healthcaring Center For Women gives women of all ages access to a variety of medical information and health screenings in a relaxed, convenient setting.

All of us at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center have a long-term commitment to the community we serve. Our Christian Mission includes being good stewards of each health care dollar that comes our way. And that's a ministry we're proud to celebrate during this special week.

If you'd like further information on any of the services mentioned above, just call the Baptist Healthcaring Line at 948-MBMC (6262) or 1-800-948-MBMC (6262).



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER



## Just for the Record



**Mantee Church** recently recognized its missions organizations for their achievements. Acteens (above, left) honored for completion of Studiact levels are: (left to right) Emily Harrington (six levels, and the Mississippi Citation Award), Danna Stone, Amber Forrester, and Laura Stone. Ann Stone (back row) is Acteen



leader. GAs (above, right) recognized for completing Mission Adventures are: front row, Marla Stone, Kari Lawrence, Courtney Jackson; middle row, Michelle Redwine, Elizabeth Harrington, Shanan Johnson; third row, leaders Hazel Forrester, Mary Turner, and Peggy Johnson. Ken Hester is pastor.



tuition is being made available to first-time entering freshmen for the summer terms only who apply through MC's financial aid office. First term registration will open on June 5; second term registration is July 10. For more information, call (800) 738-1236.

The Southern Baptist Founders Conference will host a fellowship breakfast on June 20 at 7 a.m. during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta. The breakfast will be held at the Atlanta Hyatt Regency hotel, near the convention center. Guest speakers will include: Al Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary; Timothy George, dean of Beeson Divinity School; and Tom Nettles, church history professor at Trinity Evangelical School. Cost is \$13. For more information, call Steve Farish at (708) 362-7120.



West Heights Church, Pontotoc, and the Pontotoc Association have begun a series of LIFE Support Ministry programs for those who are hurting emotionally. Support groups include divorce recovery for adults and children, making peace with your past, senior adult groups, and a women's weekday Bible study, "The Mind of Christ." For more information, contact the associational offices at (601) 489-1251.

Vaiden Church (Carroll-Montgomery) sponsored a Christian benefit trail ride on April 29. About 80 riders from ages 4 to 74 participated in the event. After the trail ride, riders were entertained by gospel singers Steve and Beverly Carver, and the Howard family. C.W. Jackson was guest speaker. Proceeds from the event went into the church's benevolence fund. Vaiden Church plans to make the trail ride an annual event. Leon Holly is pastor.



## Staff Changes

Don R. Taylor has resigned as pastor of **Springfield Church**, Carthage, to accept a similar position at Oakvale Church, Oakvale, effective April 30.

Stacey Blake has resigned as minister of music and youth at **Iuka Church**, Iuka, effective May 14. He plans to obtain a master of divinity degree with a concentration in communications at Southwestern Seminary.

J.C. Hall has resigned as pastor of **Providence Church**, Grenada. He is available for pulpit supply and can be reached at (601) 226-3715 or the associational office at (601) 226-5071.

First Church, Florence, has called **David Spencer** as minister of youth and activities. He is a graduate of Delta State University and Southwestern Seminary. Spencer previously served at Bayou Vista Church, Morgan City, La. His home church is First Church, Senatobia.



## Ministers' wives plan SBC luncheon

Diana Garland, former dean of the Carver School of Church Social Work at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., will be the featured speaker at the 1995 Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Luncheon. The luncheon is scheduled for June 20 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Atlanta in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Music will be provided by the Jubalheirs of the Church Music Department of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

Tickets for the noon luncheon are \$18 per person if purchased before May 20, and \$20 per person at convention registration.

For more information and to purchase tickets, contact Julius Thompson, director of the Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

## Homecomings

**Mount Gilead, Meridian:** May 21: Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m.; covered dish dinner in fellowship hall, noon; no night services: J.W. Coker, guest speaker: Harold Hollingsworth, Meridian, music.

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**First Church, McComb**, recently held a recognition banquet for its first through third-grade GAs (top); its fourth through sixth-grade GAs (middle); and its RAs (above) missions organizations. Debbie Rodgers is GA director; Jimmy D. Porter is pastor.

**Center Grove Church, Starkville**, will hold a Mother's Day Memorial Service on May 14 at 10:30 a.m. Jerry Vardaman of Starkville will be the guest speaker. The church will hold a fellowship lunch afterwards. John Gainer is pastor.

**Hopewell Church, Choctaw County**, will hold a memorial

service May 14 at 11 a.m. Lunch will be served after the morning service, and an afternoon singing will follow the meal. Charles Rook is pastor.

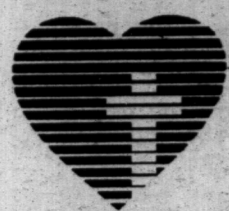
**Mississippi College** will offer local area freshmen students half-price tuition and a wide variety of courses for the summer session beginning June 5. The half-price



## Revival Dates

Thursday, May 11, 1995

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9



# Here's Hope. Jesus cares for you.

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**Handsboro, Gulfport:** May 14-18; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 nightly; Jerry Swimmer, Iuka, evangelist; Brad Jones Family, Meridian, music; Richard Bradley, pastor.

Jim Butler, pastor.

**Neshoba, Neshoba:** May 7-12; 7 nightly; Hal Bates, Amory, evangelist; John Yates, Jackson, music; Johnny Collins, pastor.

**Trinity, Southaven:** May 14-17; Sunday, 9 and 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Junior Hill, Hartselle, Ala., evangelist; Cecil Brewer, Trinity, music;

**South 28th Avenue, Hattiesburg:** May 14-17; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bob Hamblin, New Orleans, evangelist; Daniel Heeringa, pastor.

## Offering Reports

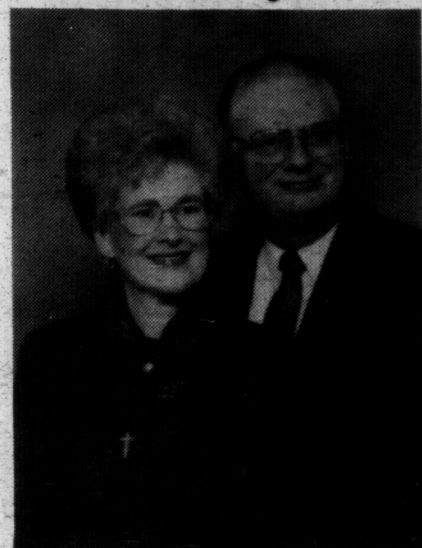
**Hardy Church, Grenada,** received the largest Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions in the history of the church. The goal was set for \$1,200; \$2,412 was received. Jean Moss is WMU director; J.

Courtney Selvy is pastor.

**Emmanuel Church, Ocean Springs,** exceeded its Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions goal of \$2,000. The church raised \$2,400 in one day — Dec. 4. Jean Richardson is WMU director; Sanford Sherman is pastor.

**Parkview Church, Leland,** exceeded its Lottie Moon Offering goal of \$600 by collecting \$1,871, the largest offering in the church's history. Thomas Cherry is pastor.

Kevin Clark Walker has resigned as organist and youth director of 38th Avenue Church, Hattiesburg. He will graduate from William Carey College May 13 and begin his journeyman assignment to Albania in August.



P.J. and Betty Scott were honored April 2 on the occasion of his 20th anniversary as pastor of First Church, Olive Branch. R.J. Wilmon, the Scotts' former pastor, preached the three services. Special music was provided by the Scotts' son-in-law, Carlton Gerrell of Paris, Tenn. The church gave the Scotts a new Bible, a book of memories, and a love offering, and hosted a reception in their honor.

## Trent Lott to keynote MC graduation

Mississippi College will hold its commencement ceremony May 20 at 10:30 a.m. in the Robinson-Hale Stadium on campus.

Four hundred and forty persons will be awarded undergraduate degrees. One hundred and twenty-six will be awarded masters' degrees; and 109, the doctor of jurisprudence from the MC School of Law.

Featured speaker will be U.S. Senator Trent Lott, who served the 104th (1994) session of Congress as Senate Majority Whip. Lott is the first person to hold the Whip position in both bodies of Congress. A native of Grenada County, Lott was a seven-term member of the House of Representatives beginning in 1972.

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Four Mississippi couples traveled to Yuma, Ariz., Jan. 23 as Campers on Mission to help the Foothill Southern Baptist Church there build a larger sanctuary. The couples worked through March 25. They were (above, left to right): front, E.L. (June) and Theo Bennett of Cleveland; Walter and Mickey Moore of Grenada; Catherine and Joe Heranney of Hollandale; back, Eurl and Melba Nelson of Monticello. The volunteers did framing, electrical, and plumbing work, alongside Foothill Church members.



First Church, Ovett, recently held two ordination services. Ordained as deacons (above) were Michael Bradshaw (second from left) and Robert Cole (third from left). Pictured with them are their wives Kim Bradshaw (left) and Betty Cole, and deacon chairman James Robinson (above, far right). Ordained to the gospel ministry was Hiram Eaves (right, in photo at right). Eaves is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Garland Eaves. Pastor Tommy Mangum presented Eaves his ordination certificate.



## SBCNet expands to 3 forums; adds message, library areas

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptists' computer network, growing rapidly with both users and on-line services, has expanded from one forum to three, adding more message and library areas.

Beginning May 1, the 4,600 users of the network have found an expanded service, with two general ministry forums and a forum for state Baptist conventions.

Included in General Ministry Forum A are new message areas for evangelism ideas, theological issues, and "The Lighter Side."

These are in addition to existing areas of help and information, intercessory prayer, spiritual awakening, directors of missions, Brotherhood, youth ministry, minister's corner, adult ministry, student ministry, innovative ministry and music and worship.

Library areas in this forum include information and help, Baptist Press, Bold Mission Prayer, publications, Home Mission Board, Southern Seminary, youth ministry, clip art, computer support, preschool/children, minister's corner, innovative ministry, CompassionNet, Brotherhood, Missions-Net, and Music and Worship, among others.

General Ministry Forum B includes the addition of message areas for Southwestern, New Orleans, and Southeastern seminaries, multilingual, and Christian Life Commission. Library areas are provided for each of these.

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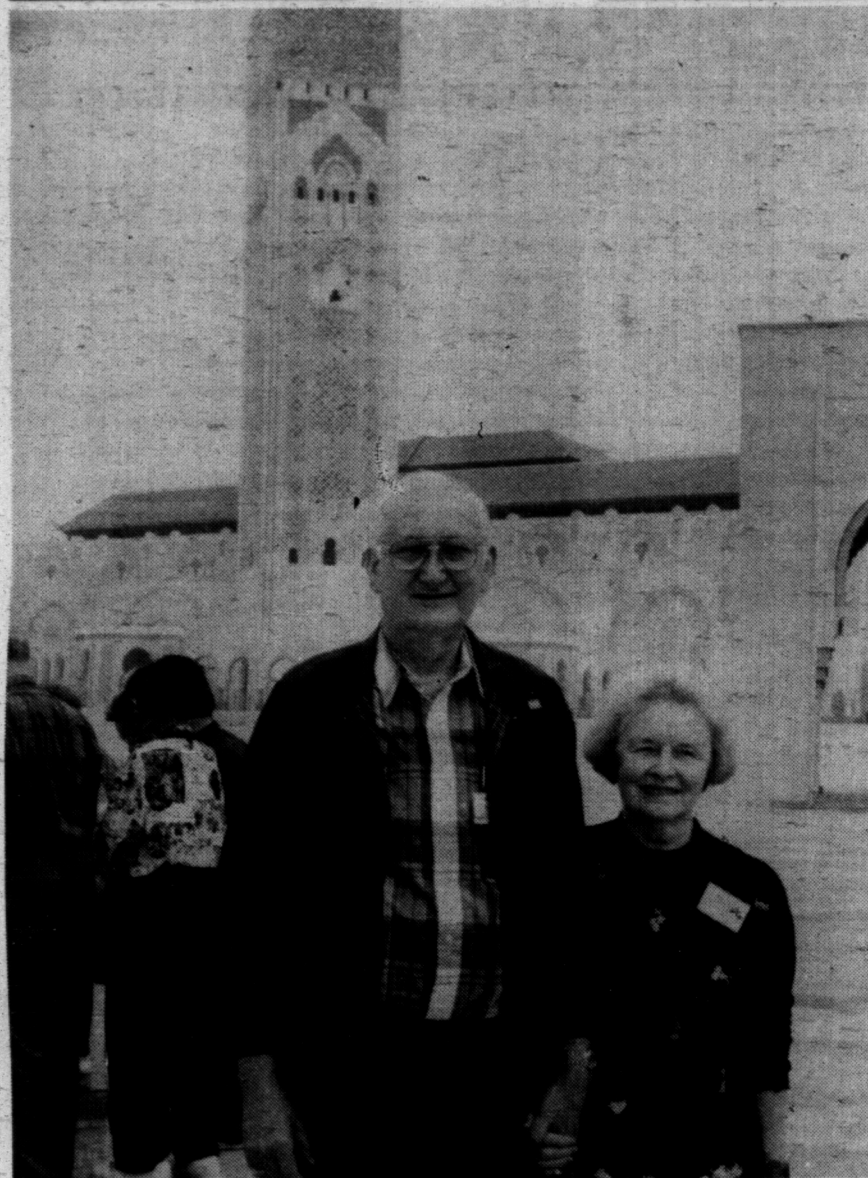
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Joe and Betty Barber of Clinton stand in front of the world's second largest mosque in Casablanca, Morocco. They were two of 21 Southern Baptists from seven states who took part in a recent two-week Prayer Walk through Morocco, a bold effort to pray directly, personally, and in place, asking God to work miracles. The North African nation, almost completely Muslim, is considered part of World A, the designation given to areas most closed to the gospel. (FMB photo by Mike Creswell)

## Youth Four-Part Festival yields music, scholarships

Organ selections of Pachelbel, Brahms, and Hancock resounded Feb. 25 in the sanctuary of Morrison Heights Church in Clinton as adjudication began the 1995 keyboard part of the State Youth Four Part Music Festival.

Karen Hardy, associate minister of music at Morrison Heights, was the church host. L. Graham Smith, director of the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, led participants in adjudication.

Adjudicators were faculty from Mississippi Baptist colleges: June Meyer and G. Edward Ludlow from Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain; Jeff McLelland and Howard Kever from William Carey College in Hattiesburg; and Janet Taylor and Billy Trotter from Mississippi College.

Each participant received a \$25 scholarship to a Baptist summer music event. In addition, the six graduating seniors were awarded

\$200 music scholarships to a Mississippi college of their choice. If attending either Blue Mountain College, Mississippi College, or William Carey College, these institutions match the \$200 music scholarship award.

Participants included:

Jeff Crow, Greenwood; Brian Eads, Grenada; Amanda Freeny, Prentiss; Daniel J. Fenn, Smithdale; Courtney Givens, Brandon; Kimberly Ann Granger, Natchez; Heather Hite, Southaven; Paula Jacobs, McComb (scholarship); Brenda Jenkins, Jackson (scholarship); Mary Lawler, Carthage;

Diane Lee, Crystal Springs; Carrie Lowery, Petal; Denita Morton, Walls (scholarship); Jamie Lynn Ray, Vicksburg (scholarship); Emily Smith, Collinsville; Melanie Sprayberry, Ethel; Samuel Wan, Clinton; Monica Lynn Watkins, Pearl; Casey Robert Welborn, Laurel (scholarship); Cydney Wilkerson, Vicksburg (scholarship).

## Keyboard festivals draw crowd

Area Keyboard Festivals were held in 12 Baptist churches across Mississippi during the last weekend in January 1995, with 1,268 participants in grades 1-12.

A total of 362 Baptist churches, 55 associations, and 47 towns and cities were represented, as well as a number of non-Baptist churches. Assisting in the festivals were 342 music leaders and church members.

# Clinton couple among Baptists who walk, pray for miracles in Morocco

CASABLANCA, Morocco — Muslims entering the world's second largest mosque were surprised recently to see a group of Southern Baptists — including two from Mississippi — gathered to pray.

The 21 Southern Baptists from seven states were part of a Prayer Walk through Morocco, a bold effort to pray directly, personally, and in place, asking God to work miracles.

Mississippians Joe and Betty Barber of Clinton were among the participants. He retired last year after 21 years with Mississippi College. Minette Drumwright, retired director of the Foreign Mission Board's prayer strategy office, led the group.

Morocco is a North African nation just south of Spain. It is considered part of World A, the designation given to areas most closed to the gospel. Morocco's 26 million people are thought to include a few hundred Christians at best.

About 40% of Moroccans consider themselves Berbers, a people group in the area long before the Arabs arrived with the Islamic faith and forced them to convert. Moroccan Berbers are considered one of the most closed groups to the gospel in the world. But they're also considered responsive to the gospel; many Berbers have responded in neighboring Algeria, for example, where civil war has

made life hard for believers.

But in Morocco, only a few Christian groups have been organized among Berbers.

The prayer group visited Morocco's major cities by bus, including Casablanca, Tangier, Rabat, Fes, Meknes, and Marrakech. They also visited a Berber village in the Atlas Mountains, where they gathered to pray for the Berber people group.

Betty Barber said the sight of

so many children growing up in need was one of the most moving things for her during the trip.

"It's so hard for me to realize that my little prayer is effective with the Lord in all this," she said. "But it's true. It's scriptural, and I believe the Bible. I believe the praying we do is effective." The Barbers are member of First Church, Clinton, where both have worked with children in Sunday School for many years.



## LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ed.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

*I'm sick of talking to the back of my husband's head as he sits in front of the TV. I need him to be more involved, but more importantly, so do our children.*

What does he do that you appreciate? Give him recognition for doing it. Don't protect him from involvement with the children. By that, I mean if the children want Dad to help them with something, allow them to ask him. If he refuses and they come to you, take care of their needs and let your husband know how disappointed they were. Are there overwhelming difficulties or frustrations at work that may cause him to act like this? Find out by inviting him out for a walk and then allowing him to talk. He may not know how much you want him involved. Use pointed statements like, "I really miss being together."

Don't use general statements like, "Can we talk?" because this is an uncomfortable expression to men who may not know what to say.

A thought for men: Our wives and families need our attention and our listening ears. If they don't get those things at home, they will find them elsewhere.

*I suspect my wife of adultery, but to ask her would end our marriage. Should I follow her around to see for myself?*

Keep your eyes open, wait for the proper time, and if it is true, you will find out — or more to the point, "her sins will find her out." Instead of chasing her, give her love and let her sin catch up with her. She will want to resolve the tension she feels by your loving actions, and she will have to make a choice. Ephesians 5 is your job description as a husband. Also, you should study the Old Testament book of Hosea in order to understand that she may reject your unconditional love. That will be her choice. She is your wife, your sister in Christ, and it is possible that she has fallen into sin. As a Christian, you must pick her up and encourage her in the faith. Again, if she rejects you, that is her choice. I strongly encourage Christian counseling for you right now, and for the two of you as a couple if she decides to stay in the marriage. Counseling can help both of you understand why the adultery is occurring, which is essential to getting back on the right track.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

## William Carey College will graduate 320

William Carey College will award 320 degrees at its spring commencement on May 13. The ceremony will take place at 5 p.m. on the front lawn of the college's main Hattiesburg campus.

Duane McCallister, president and publisher of The (Jackson) Clarion-Ledger daily newspaper, will be the featured speaker. McCallister is also regional vice president of the Gannett Gulf Coast Newspaper Group.

William Carey College President James Edwards will confer an honorary degree on Mrs. Ollie Thomas, member of First Church, Hattiesburg. Thomas and her husband, the late John D. Thomas, developed nine Gibson's stores. She now serves as president of Gibson Products of Hattiesburg.

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## Uniform Motivated by love



By Greg Potts  
2 Corinthians 5

A racehorse was winding down in his competitive spirit. The jockey thought he could get one more good race. The racehorse was not sure. He told the racehorse, "Win today or it's the milk wagon tomorrow." In less than 100 yards he was two furlongs behind. The jockey chided, "... Milk wagon tomorrow." Shortly out of the starting gates, the horse was well behind the last thoroughbred. The irate jockey used his whip emphatically. The racehorse, quite chagrined, turned and said, "Go easy on the whip. I gotta get up early in the morning."

Maybe there are times you feel that you are being whipped into living the Christian life. That is not the way it is supposed to be. The winter Bible study for 1995 was Galatians. Throughout the book, the apostle Paul addressed the issue of legalism as opposed to living by the Spirit.

This thesis strikes at the heart of the motive of many Christians in living the Christian life. We have been taught that in order to please the Lord we are to attend worship regularly, read our Bible faithfully, pray unceasingly, and give generously. While the Bible does teach that these are the results of the Christian life, we must be careful that we do not do them out of habit.

Occasionally, someone will say, "I know I need to begin attending worship again. I just got out of the habit." While I understand what that individual is saying, we must be careful that the Christian life does not become a habit.

In our text, the apostle Paul says we are to live the Christian life because of our love for the Lord. We are not to live the Christian life legalistically nor should we be manipulated but we live for Jesus because "the love of Christ controls us" (14). Let's look at what Paul says in these verses.

**We are motivated by Christ's love (v. 14).** In verse 10, Paul said that one day we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ and there we will be held accountable for our lives. That fact alone should motivate all Christians to live for the Lord faithfully, because we will be held accountable for our conduct. But Paul goes further and says that instead of being motivated by fear, we should be motivated by our love for the Lord.

There are many ways in which to motivate someone, and unfortunately some ministers often resort to manipulation or guilt to motivate their people to be faithful to the Lord. However, once the guilt trip wears off, the same problem exists. It is far better for one to truly feel led of the Lord to do something and respond out of love for the Lord rather than out of fear. This is what Paul is saying — the love of Christ controls us.

**We are changed by Christ's power (v. 17).** This is one of my favorite verses in the Bible. The Lord used this verse to speak to my heart during a time in which I had drifted away from him while a college student. This verse led me to realize the need to draw nearer to him.

Paul is speaking here of the change that takes place in one's life when he gives his life to Christ. When a person receives Jesus as Savior his life changes instantly. Anything that happened in the past passes away and the individual is now able to live a new life in Jesus.

Unfortunately, many Christians carry the baggage of their past. This baggage hinders them from living a dynamic Christian life. Paul says we are new creatures in Christ.

**We are ambassadors for Christ (v. 20).** An ambassador is one who speaks for and represents his country in a foreign land. His country is judged by how he conducts his life. In the same way, Christians are ambassadors in a land that is not our final home. As the world observes us, they form their opinion of Jesus and his love.

Our task as ambassadors is to help others see the need to be reconciled to God. As we live the Christian life, others should see the difference in our lives and have the desire to be reconciled to God.

What about you? Have you led someone to see the need to know Jesus? Jesus said, "I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly" (John 10:10). When the love of Christ controls us, we live the Christian life out of joy rather than obligation. Enjoy the Christian life!

Potts is pastor, First Church, Vancleave.

## Bible Book Encountering rejection



By Sylvia Fleming  
Mark 6, 7

Jesus left the area of Galilee and went into Nazareth, his childhood home. He went back among the people who previously had sought to take his life (Luke 4:29). Consequently, it seems that his holy purpose and will is for his people not simply to place themselves among the friendly faces, but to be at one with the Lord Jesus Christ. To do that, one must minister to the enemy.

While in Nazareth, Jesus went to the synagogue on the Sabbath and began to teach, as was his right as a Jewish man. Jesus used that opportunity to teach and instruct people. After hearing Jesus' words, his fellow countrymen were amazed. Where did he learn such things? What kind of wisdom did he have? Was he not the carpenter? One can ascertain that Jesus worked at that vocation until he began his public ministry. Whether poor or wealthy, it was the tradition for all Jewish children to learn a trade — some type of manual labor.

How was he accomplishing such a thing? The Nazarenes spoke not in awe, but very condescendingly. His simple background was nothing compared to the low, humble, denigrating death to which he would willingly go for even his worst enemy.

People at home never recognize an expert. Jesus said a person could be recognized everywhere for his expertise, but not in his own land, not in his own house. Familiarity breeds contempt and/or jealousy. People never want someone who is their equal or perhaps of a lower socio-economic level teaching them.

It is almost like the lobster syndrome. If one lobster becomes an expert, its peers, or former peers, want to pull him back into the boiling water. The very Son of the only living God could not even work his miracles in his own home country. He was only allowed to heal a few sick people. Because of their spiritual poverty, the love of Jesus was so great that he continued to teach and preach.

Jesus sent out his 12 disciples by twos to preach his word to a sin-sick land. The 12 apostles had been sitting at the feet of Jesus, walking with him, learning the power of his holy doctrine; thus, it was time they began to spread his word, to carry out his holy will and sovereign purpose. He sent them out together for moral, spiritual, and emotional support. He even gave them power over satanic spirits/demons.

As he sent them out he told them to go unprepared. They were to allow the Holy Spirit to provide their physical needs. They were to go into a home; if they were given provisions, then the peace, joy, and blessings possessed by the apostles were to be placed upon the home. However, if they were not accepted nor given provisions, they were to shake the dust from their feet as testament against that house. Jesus said that hell would be hotter for those people than for Sodom and Gomorrah. The 12 went forth healing, casting out demons, and preaching repentance.

A group of scribes and Pharisees came from Jerusalem to see Jesus and probably find fault with him. When they reached Jesus and his 12, they saw certain ones of the disciples eating, not having washed their hands. The rabbis had taught them that uncleanness was as severe as committing a serious crime. Jesus pointed out that their hands might be dirty, but they had clean hearts. He then told the Pharisees that they were a bunch of hypocrites. He said they honored God with their mouths, but their hearts were far, far away from him.

There is no in-between, no sitting on the proverbial fence. A person has a heavenly Father or a satanic father. He is either washed in the blood, saved by faith, and living in joyous expectation of Jesus Christ and his promises; or he is clothed in the sins of the world, living with an incessant desire that maybe one day things will be better, that maybe that emptiness inside will be filled.

However, that emptiness can only be filled by God, "the Father of glory," who "... put all things under his feet, and gave [his Son] to be... head over... the church... his body..." and it is the fullness of Jesus "... that filleth all in all" (Eph. 1:17-23).

Fleming is an English teacher and member of Harmony Church, Louisville.

## Life and Work Enduring hardship



By Michael Johnson  
Acts 16

I have been amazed to see the growing popularity of the "Psychic Friends Network," regularly advertised on television. If the slave-girl Paul encountered in Acts 16:16 was alive today, she would no doubt be employed by this "psychic network."

This woman apparently followed Paul around constantly, crying out that he was a man of God to be listened to. After several days of this, Paul had enough and commanded the spirit in the woman to cease and depart, which it did.

Frank Staggs points out that this is the first recorded conflict with paganism apart from Jewish instigation, and the issue was not doctrine but money. When the owners saw that they could no longer exploit the slave girl, they sought to destroy the one who had interfered with their source of gain. Paul and his group were arrested and placed in the Philippian jail.

**Encountering hardship (vv. 22-24).** If we have accurately understood the call to live Christian lives in a non-Christian world, we will not be surprised when we are condemned for doing the right thing. Obviously Paul understood this. There is no record that Paul was distressed at being arrested; there was no "What have I done?" or "I don't deserve this" kind of lament.

**Praising God in hardship (v. 25).** On the contrary, Paul and his company sang hymns up through the midnight hour. Regardless of what the Philippian authorities could do to Paul, they could not take away the presence of Jesus Christ. As Barclay puts it, "With God there is freedom even in a prison and even at midnight there is light."

**Showing concern for others in hardship (vv. 26-28).** In the midst of their impromptu worship service we are told that there was an earthquake, which was common for that area. In this instance, the quake had dislodged the door and the opportunity was there for the prisoners to escape.

The jailer, upon seeing the open doors, assumed just that and prepared to take his own life since Roman law dictated that if a prisoner escaped, the jailer must suffer the penalty of the escapee. However, there was no need for this. Paul and the others had stayed and the stage was set for the Holy Spirit to work in a new and mighty way.

**Witnessing in hardship (vv. 29-32).** Again, we are impressed with the character and spirit of Paul. He held no grudge against the man who had imprisoned him; instead Paul sought to reach out and turn his jailer into a brother.

The jailer clearly recognized that there was something different about Paul; after all, he had not escaped. No doubt the jailer had been listening to the singing and wondered who this Christ was who was mentioned in their hymns. This prompted the question, "What must I do to be saved?"

History tells us that even during the widespread persecution of Christians, the persecutors became converted because of the way the Christians conducted themselves en route to their own executions.

**Reaping rewards from hardship (vv. 33-34).** Because of his strong witness, Paul was able to proclaim the truth that there was nothing prohibiting the jailer from becoming a follower of Christ. All that was needed was faith.

Immediately after his conversion the jailer showed his faith through his deeds. The jailer brought this new member of a spiritual family to his biological family and they, too, accepted Christ as their Savior and Lord. Then the master became the servant as the jailer dressed the wounds of the missionaries and provided them with a meal.

Paul clearly understood that God's ways are not necessarily our ways. Even in adverse circumstances we have the opportunity of sharing our faith with others. People will be less impressed by what we say than by what we do. Could we be considered good witnesses for our Lord during adverse circumstances?

When golf balls were first manufactured, their covers were smooth. Then it was discovered that after a ball had been roughed up, one could get more distance out of it, so balls were manufactured with dimpled covers. The same might be said about our pilgrimages of faith. We can take the rough spots of life and use them to go even further in our relationship to Christ.

Johnson is associate professor of Christian education at Mississippi College, Clinton.



**First person...**

# Gambling promoter recounts "worst mistake" of his career

By Joseph Napolitan

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (BP) — In 1976, I was one of the people instrumental in bringing casino gambling to Atlantic City. This was the worst mistake I have ever made in 38 years of running political campaigns in the United States and more than 20 other countries on five continents.

I was retained by Resorts International Inc. to conduct research and design strategy for a referendum to permit casino gambling. A similar referendum, which would have permitted casino gambling statewide had been defeated in 1974. Our research revealed that in 1976 New Jersey voters again would reject casino gambling.

Therefore, I recommended to Resorts International that the wording of the referendum be changed to allow casino gambling only in Atlantic City, not statewide. We believed that by isolating casino gambling to Atlantic City there was a much better chance of winning voter approval.

The company agreed to the change and asked me to manage the referendum campaign. Because I was involved with several other political campaigns I did not have time to manage this one on a full-time basis. I arranged for a political consultant from San Francisco, Sanford Weiner, to move to Atlantic City and manage the campaign. I was retained to design strategy and conduct research.

We quickly determined that our most important task was to convince voters in New Jersey that casino gambling would be good for them and good for Atlantic City.

No one really knew what the economic or social impact of casino gambling in Atlantic City would be on the city and its citizens. We assumed that casinos would create thousands of new jobs, revitalize the city, restore its economic strength, and make Atlantic City a better place to live. Casino promoters made promises and claims about the benefits casino gambling would bring to Atlantic City.

I did not deliberately set out to mislead the voters of New Jersey or Atlantic City. I really believed the claims we were making. I sincerely thought casino gambling would be the boon Atlantic City so badly needed. I believed my own propaganda... until events proved me wrong.

We won the election and opened the doors. What a disaster. Atlantic City started with one casino; now there are 11. Within three years after the casinos came, the crime rate in Atlantic City tripled. It went from 50th in the nation in per capita crime to first.

Forty percent of local restaurants closed. The number of homeless people increased by 2000%. Property values dropped. There was violence: Almost 200 homes of persons who refused to sell their prop-

erty to the casino were burned to the ground in arson-related fires — 50 in a single month.

More people went on welfare. Shelters were jammed. An unseemly number of teenagers became gambling addicts. Prostitution was rampant.

Today, Atlantic City is two separate, distinct, and unequal cities. One is the city the tourists see: glittering hotels on the boardwalk offering fancy entertainment, inexpensive meals to keep customers from leaving the casino to eat and every convenience for those who can pay the price. But just a few blocks away is the real Atlantic City, The Atlantic City of those who live there: seedy, dirty, and dangerous.

Springfield is a proud industrial city that, like many others, is going through a difficult period. But anyone who thinks our economic problems can be solved by bringing casino gambling to Springfield is closing his or her eyes to reality.

I made a mistake in Atlantic City. Now I know how casino gambling can destroy the heart and soul of a city.

Napolitan worked as a political consultant to help bring casino gambling to Atlantic City. This article appeared in a publication of Citizens Against Casino Gambling, a group organized to oppose the introduction of gambling into Springfield, Mass.

## Expert says: Casino gambling has serious negative economic effect

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (BP) — Casino gambling is not an effective strategy for economic development, an expert on the subject said in Illinois April 18. In fact, Robert Goodman maintained, casino gambling has serious negative economic consequences, as well as being a "terrible human tragedy."

Goodman is an urban planner, economic development consultant, and author from Northampton, Mass. He spoke during a two-day

"People's Conference on Gambling" in Springfield, Ill., which encouraged participants to lobby the State Senate to pass a gambling referendum bill this session.

Terrence Brunner, executive director of the Chicago-based Better Government Association, said surveys by his organization have found cannibalization. He said business people in the vicinity of gambling establishments repeatedly told of how visitors to cas-

inos bypassed their businesses.

Another problem with convenience gambling, Goodman said, is costs related to gambling are "borne by the local region."

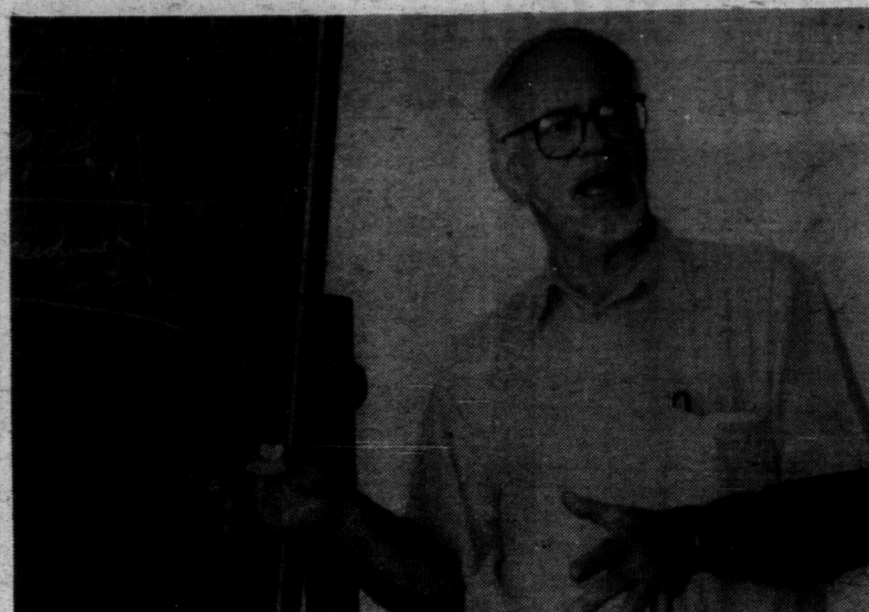
The cost of counseling problem gamblers is minor. The "real costs" are in "how they behave," he stated. "They start borrowing money, ... selling property they own," and typically "don't pay off their debts." Others write bad checks, move into fraud, and even bankruptcy.

The costs, in other words, are borne by the person, the private economy, and the government.

"The longer you have it and the more forms of gambling you have, the higher the rate of problem gamblers," Goodman said.

One result is an increase in the number of people being processed through the criminal justice system. "People who had never been in trouble with the law before," turn up in the jails and court system as a result of gambling problems, he said.

Taking all costs into consideration, Goodman estimated problem gamblers cost the public and private economy \$13,200 per year. He said his is considered a conservative figure, with others estimating the cost at \$30,000-\$50,000 per year.



## Meeting needs in the Big Easy

Columbia native Charlie Holmes directs the alcohol and drug rehabilitation program at the Brantley Baptist Center in New Orleans. Many view drugs or alcohol as an addict's problem, but Holmes says it's actually the solution. It's just not a very good one. "The problem lies underneath," he explains. "Got a headache? Take an aspirin. If you're hurting from the soul, you self-medicate, and I see drugs (and alcohol) as self-medication." Holmes says secular programs often fail to treat the entire patient. "Man is a social, sexual, and spiritual being, and too many times people deal with two of them and neglect the third. To be successful, you need to deal with the spiritual." (HMB photo by David Winfrey)

## Charity bingo a scam, says whistle-blower

DALLAS (ABP) — Charity bingo's big benefits go to unskilled workers receiving untaxed wages and to commercial operators skimming profits from crooked operations, according to two former bingo hall workers in Dallas.

And if the state cannot effectively regulate small-scale bingo halls, they ask, how can it expect to oversee multi-million dollar casinos?

Michele Slaten worked about three years as bookkeeper for an east Dallas bingo hall. Her sister, Patricia Currie Stark, worked in the bingo hall nearly seven years, mostly in the concession area.

Slaten said she resigned once she "caught on" that her employer was requiring her to break the law.

Stark was fired after her employer charged that she was stealing from the cash register. Stark maintained that she simply was doing what she had been told to do — taking her wages in cash so that they would be "off the books."

While large non-profit organizations such as Amvets or American Indian groups are legitimate charitable entities, the problem comes when bingo games are operated by commercial lessors for chapters or posts of the parent organization, the pair reported to investigators with the Texas Lottery Commission last July.

Lessors routinely are involved in all aspects of the bingo operations — hiring and firing employees, writing checks, ordering supplies, and maintaining inventory, the sisters have said.

In a September 1992 letter to the IRS, Slaten charged that Mariann Quick of Dallas, the sisters' former employee, created four phony charitable organizations which grossed about \$2 million between 1988 and 1992.

Illegal activities at bingo halls

are only part of what make them repulsive, according to Stark. The plight of problem gamblers and their families is heart-breaking, she said.

"One woman would leave her kids out in the station wagon on the parking lot in all kinds of weather," she said. "It was the job of the older kids to change the baby's diapers. And they were under strict orders not to disturb mother until after she was through playing bingo."

Slaten said she realizes her current job as a dispatcher with the Dallas Police Department could be jeopardized by her coming forward with stories of illegality in her former workplace. "I have nothing to gain financially and a lot to lose. But I'd like to see every bingo hall in this state shut down. And I sure don't want to see casinos come into Texas," she said.

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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PRE CO ITAFO FCOTO XYAR FCO GFAROG P  
HAYB AS FCO DPI AS KAGOG, ICUHC CO ITAFO  
UR FCO YTOGORHO AS FCO HCUDETOR AS UGT-  
POD.

VAGCXP OUMCF: FCUTFB-FLA

This week's clue: E equals D.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: First Timothy One: Twelve.

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